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Consumer Price Index, South Region – April 2017

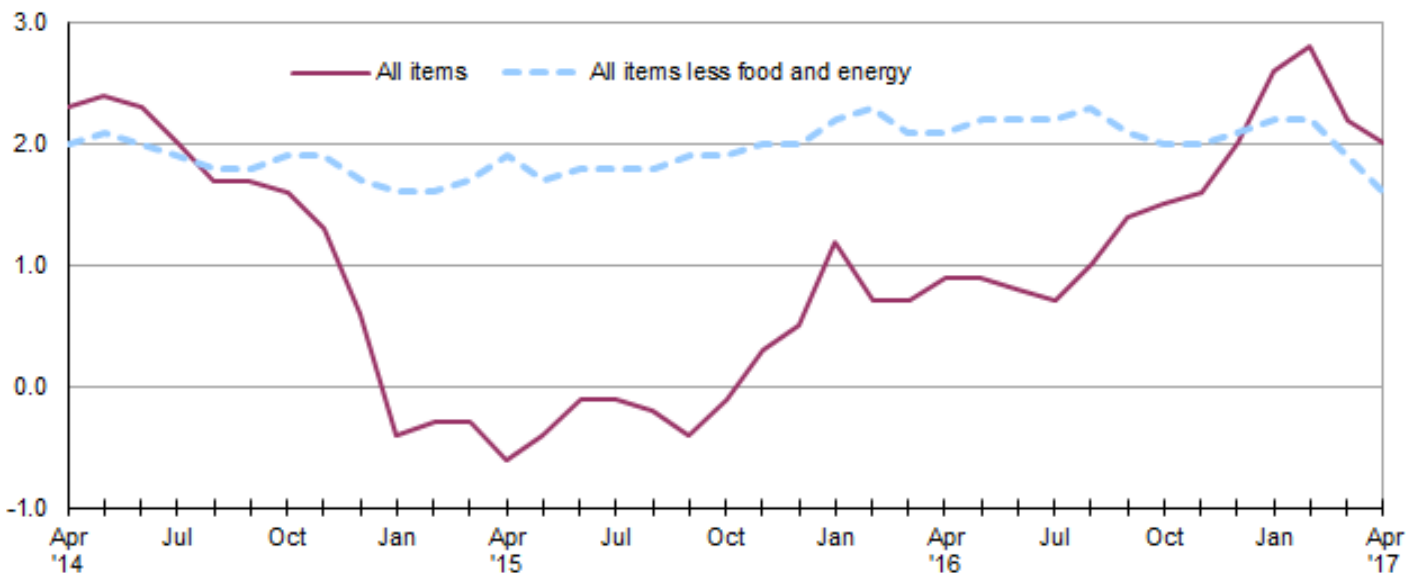
Area prices up 0.2 percent over the month and 2.0 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South edged up 0.2 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the month, the energy index rose 2.7 percent and the food index inched up 0.1 percent. The all items less food and energy index was unchanged in April. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The all items CPI-U increased 2.0 percent since April 2016. The all items less food and energy index rose 1.6 percent over the last 12 months and the energy index advanced 10.1 percent. The food index edged up 0.2 percent over the past year. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, April 2014–April 2017

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index inched up 0.1 percent in April, reflecting price increases for food at home and for food away from home, up 0.1 percent each over the month.

The food index edged up 0.2 percent over the year. A 1.9-percent increase in food away from home prices was largely offset by a 1.0-percent decline in food at home prices.

Energy

The energy index increased 2.7 percent in April, led by a 5.2-percent increase in motor fuel prices. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service also advanced over-the-month, up 0.3 and 1.9 percent, respectively.

From April 2016—April 2017, energy prices advanced 10.1 percent, reflecting price increases for motor fuel (15.7 percent), electricity (3.7 percent), and utility (piped) gas service (17.6 percent).

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index was unchanged in April. An increase in the shelter index (0.2 percent) was largely offset by declines in the medical care, and education and communication indexes, down 0.5 percent each over the month.

Since April 2016, the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.6 percent, as several indexes saw increases, most notably shelter (2.9 percent). Medical care, fueled by an increase in medical care services (4.7 percent), rose 4.1 percent. The education and communication index declined 4.0 percent over the year.

Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	1.2	0.5	2.6
February.....	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.7	0.2	2.8
March.....	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.7	0.0	2.2
April.....	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6	0.4	0.9	0.2	2.0
May.....	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.4	-0.4	0.4	0.9		
June.....	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.8		
July.....	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.7		
August.....	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	1.0		
September.....	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7	-0.2	-0.4	0.2	1.4		
October.....	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1	0.1	1.5		
November.....	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	1.6		
December.....	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6	-0.4	0.5	0.1	2.0		

The Consumer Price Index for May 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately

24,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf>.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **South region** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017	Apr. 2017	Apr. 2016	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	236.052	236.154	236.728	2.0	0.3	0.2
All items (December 1977=100).....	382.908	383.075	384.006	-	-	-
Food and beverages	246.796	246.783	247.102	0.3	0.1	0.1
Food	248.056	247.977	248.291	0.2	0.1	0.1
Food at home	236.647	236.434	236.706	-1.0	0.0	0.1
Food away from home.....	267.916	268.034	268.415	1.9	0.2	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	228.805	229.795	230.191	1.5	0.6	0.2
Housing	229.355	229.760	230.099	2.8	0.3	0.1
Shelter	262.560	263.164	263.641	2.9	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence(1).....	272.144	272.418	273.243	3.4	0.4	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	264.575	265.005	265.327	2.8	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	264.566	264.997	265.320	2.8	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	231.397	230.947	231.872	4.9	0.2	0.4
Household energy	187.268	186.651	187.618	5.4	0.2	0.5
Energy services(1)	187.538	186.891	187.889	5.4	0.2	0.5
Electricity(1).....	184.826	184.429	185.036	3.7	0.1	0.3
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	190.252	187.970	191.519	17.6	0.7	1.9
Household furnishings and operations.....	121.403	121.710	121.141	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5
Apparel	133.371	136.803	137.268	0.3	2.9	0.3
Transportation	200.134	200.798	203.409	4.4	1.6	1.3
Private transportation	198.310	198.933	201.411	4.6	1.6	1.2
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	102.557	102.720	103.186	-1.1	0.6	0.5
New vehicles	155.457	155.007	155.629	0.8	0.1	0.4
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	105.899	105.597	105.986	0.8	0.1	0.4
New cars(4)	155.754	155.418	155.758	0.7	0.0	0.2
Used cars and trucks.....	138.625	140.126	141.427	-4.5	2.0	0.9
Motor fuel	194.500	194.889	205.030	15.7	5.4	5.2
Gasoline (all types).....	193.474	193.873	204.113	15.7	5.5	5.3
Unleaded regular(4)	188.604	188.910	199.210	15.8	5.6	5.5
Unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	214.617	215.624	225.496	15.2	5.1	4.6
Unleaded premium(4).....	214.032	214.939	223.891	14.6	4.6	4.2
Medical care	458.149	457.812	455.471	4.1	-0.6	-0.5
Medical care commodities.....	368.535	366.357	359.613	2.3	-2.4	-1.8
Medical care services.....	488.257	488.665	488.128	4.7	0.0	-0.1
Professional services	368.344	367.257	362.668	0.7	-1.5	-1.2
Recreation(3).....	117.675	117.628	117.681	-0.6	0.0	0.0
Education and communication(3).....	135.664	132.337	131.698	-4.0	-2.9	-0.5
Other goods and services	417.039	417.968	419.349	1.7	0.6	0.3
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	236.052	236.154	236.728	2.0	0.3	0.2
Commodities	180.946	181.296	182.288	1.1	0.7	0.5
Commodities less food and beverages	149.726	150.212	151.446	1.7	1.1	0.8
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	192.789	193.873	196.471	4.5	1.9	1.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	229.755	229.600	233.415	5.9	1.6	1.7
Durables	109.289	109.310	109.477	-1.8	0.2	0.2
Services.....	291.485	291.350	291.525	2.6	0.0	0.1
Rent of shelter(2).....	269.510	270.132	270.583	2.9	0.4	0.2
Transportation services	338.266	340.274	339.530	4.5	0.4	-0.2

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017	Apr. 2017	Apr. 2016	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017
Other services	340.022	335.946	335.266	-1.3	-1.4	-0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	223.978	224.100	224.805	1.9	0.4	0.3
All items less food	233.970	234.101	234.714	2.3	0.3	0.3
All items less shelter.....	226.767	226.663	227.281	1.7	0.2	0.3
Commodities less food	152.169	152.669	153.887	1.7	1.1	0.8
Nondurables	218.383	218.942	220.449	2.2	0.9	0.7
Nondurables less food.....	194.608	195.687	198.167	4.3	1.8	1.3
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	228.574	228.512	232.033	5.6	1.5	1.5
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	328.239	327.135	326.966	2.3	-0.4	-0.1
Services less medical care services.....	273.929	273.760	273.980	2.4	0.0	0.1
Energy	186.545	186.386	191.389	10.1	2.6	2.7
All items less energy	242.363	242.495	242.583	1.4	0.1	0.0
All items less food and energy	241.776	241.945	241.993	1.6	0.1	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.622	148.141	148.140	-0.7	0.4	0.0
Energy commodities.....	198.078	198.483	208.558	15.6	5.3	5.1
Services less energy services	302.444	302.368	302.449	2.4	0.0	0.0

Footnotes(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.